

## **Action Item Notes**

### **Effectiveness Monitoring Committee Meeting**

**January 19, 2017**

**California Natural Resources Agency Conference Room  
Sacramento**

**Participants (18):** Dr. Russ Henly (Co-Chair), Dr. Kevin Boston, Tom Engstrom, Dr. Erin Kelly, Bill Condon, Sal Chinnici, Drew Coe, René Leclerc, Ali Dunn, Dr. Matt O'Connor, Jim Burke, Bill Short, Matt Dias, Stacy Stanish, Mandy Culpepper, David Fowler, George Gentry, and Pete Cafferata.

**Webinar participants (3):** Clarence Hostler, Richard Gienger, and Ronna Bowers.

#### **1. Report by the Co-Chair**

- Russ Henly reported on the following topics:
  - Two workshops will be held on the new CALTREES automated plan submission system under development on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - The Little Hoover Commission will hold a hearing on forest management related to tree mortality on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 AM in Rm 437, State Capital.
  - The California Forest Carbon Plan is posted on the FCAT website:  
[http://www.fire.ca.gov/fcat/downloads/California%20Forest%20Carbon%20Plan%20Draft%20for%20Public%20Review\\_Jan17.pdf](http://www.fire.ca.gov/fcat/downloads/California%20Forest%20Carbon%20Plan%20Draft%20for%20Public%20Review_Jan17.pdf)  
It will be discussed on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-4:00 PM, Cal EPA Building, Sacramento, and at the BOF meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - Additional BOF topics being addressed on January 25<sup>th</sup> include Class II-Large watercourses and forest carbon accounting models.
  - A call for 2017 EMC project proposals needs to be widely distributed and posted.

#### **2. Discussion of the Draft Revised Strategic Plan**

- The BOF requested one substantive change in the revised EMC Strategic Plan at their December meeting, as well as additional time to review the document.
- Pete Cafferata developed a new paragraph to replace the existing Class II-L monitoring paragraph in Table 1 of the Executive Summary, consistent with the draft study plan provided by Dr. Catalina Segura, Oregon State University (OSU). This paragraph was accepted by the EMC, with the change of “geographic scope” for “area” in the third line (no need to re-rank this proposal, since this was not a substantive change).
- One additional change was determined to be necessary by the EMC: page 96, Appendix F, Project Ranking Method—add the following sentence at the end of the first paragraph: “Proposals may be reviewed and ranked at other times as needed and appropriate in the flow of proposals before the EMC.”
- The revised document for Board consideration is posted at:  
[http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board\\_business/binder\\_materials/2017/jan\\_2017/full/full\\_12.0\\_b2\\_emc\\_strategic\\_plan\\_clean\\_version\\_01\\_19\\_17.pdf](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board_business/binder_materials/2017/jan_2017/full/full_12.0_b2_emc_strategic_plan_clean_version_01_19_17.pdf)

### **3. Update on EMC membership**

- Russ Henly reported that the federal agency EMC membership position is a fire ecologist working for the PSW that should be available to participate soon.
- There has been no progress made in filling the university affiliation membership position.

### **4. Review of Draft EMC Projects**

#### **EMC-2016-003 (Effectiveness of the Forest Practice Rules for Unstable Areas):**

- Dr. Matt O'Connor led a discussion to determine how to move forward with this draft proposal.
- Several people have provided input for the initial draft proposal, including Bill Short, Drew Coe, Ronna Bowers, Matt House, and Sal Chinnici.
- Prior studies were reviewed as a first step in developing a comprehensive study plan. These include an Oregon landslide study following storm events in 1996 (Robison et al. 1999), a Washington CMER study of a December 2007 event (Stewart et al. 2013), and studies of the December 1996/January 1997 storm event in northern California (Furniss et al. 1998, PWA 1998). The main question is whether the FPRs are effective during extreme rainfall events. Older monitoring projects conducted in California involving landslides also need to be reviewed (e.g., Critical Sites Erosion Studies, vol. I and II).
- Broad management style changes at the decadal time scale will be used to set the framework for forest management "treatments", for both landslide features associated with roads and those associated with harvesting units.
- **It was determined that a sub-committee is needed for further refinement of this proposal. It will be limited to two EMC members and EMC staff members.** Matt O'Connor will determine who the second EMC member will be for the subcommittee and provide that information to the EMC co-chairs and Matt Dias; staff assistance will be provided by Ronna Bowers (CVRWQCB), CGS staff, Pete Cafferata, and likely others.
- EMC member feedback on draft proposals is permissible under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, as long as it is disseminated to the entire committee and made available to the public.
- The goal is to have a final proposal available by April for project ranking if possible.

#### **EMC-2015-001 (Class II-Large Monitoring):**

- Drew Coe led the discussion on the Class II-L monitoring project. He stated that it is focusing on elements no. 2 and 3 of the previous study proposal. No. 1, which was the Class II-L identification methods resulting in conflicts between Review Team personnel and the regulated public, has been addressed by CAL FIRE and will be discussed during the BOF presentation on Class II-L watercourses on January 25th. The remaining two elements are the focus of a draft study plan submitted by researchers at OSU: (2) are the drainage area and width methods effective in identifying Class II-L watercourses?; and (3) are the identification methods effective in identifying watercourses that have the potential to translate thermal impacts to Class I watercourses?

- A draft study proposal authored by Drs. Catalina Segura and Kevin Bladon, OSU, was distributed to the EMC for review prior to the meeting.
- There are two main components: (1) A broad scale examination of 100 Class II-L watercourses across the full ASP geographic scope using field investigation, as well as LiDAR and hydrometric data where they are available. This analysis will contribute to determining if the current identification parameters are appropriate, or if further modification is needed. (2) A pilot study will be undertaken on Jackson and LaTour DSFs to investigate the downstream transmission of heated water from upstream to downstream reaches in watersheds with contrasting lithologies.
- **EMC members and staff are requested to send their comments on this draft study proposal to Matt Dias by January 31<sup>st</sup> for distribution to the full EMC.**
- In order to encumber the EMC funds required for this study, it is necessary to have a revised study proposal and budget ready for the next EMC meeting.
- Jim Burke, NCRWQCB, noted that Water Board staff remain concerned whether are individual watercourses that do not meet that Class II large criteria, but have sufficient summertime flow as to convey thermal impacts downstream. Monitoring of Class II-S watercourses was determined to be outside the scope of the current study, however.

#### **EMC-2017-xxx (Effects of Forest Stand Density Reduction on Nutrient Cycling):**

- Pete Cafferata led the discussion on the nutrient cycling study proposal. He explained that this is one of 10 sub-studies under the umbrella of the Third Experiment at the Caspar Creek Experimental Watersheds, and the only one that is yet to be fully funded.
- Dr. Salli Dymond provided the EMC with a PowerPoint presentation on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Experiment at the February 2016 meeting (see: [http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board\\_committees/effectiveness\\_monitoring\\_committee/feb\\_2\\_016\\_emc/emc\\_4.0\\_presentation\\_by\\_salli\\_dymond\\_casper\\_creek\\_02\\_24\\_16.pdf](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/effectiveness_monitoring_committee/feb_2_016_emc/emc_4.0_presentation_by_salli_dymond_casper_creek_02_24_16.pdf))
- The February 2016 Third Experiment study plan is posted at: [http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board\\_committees/effectiveness\\_monitoring\\_committee/feb\\_2\\_016\\_emc/emc\\_4.0\\_presentation\\_by\\_salli\\_dymond\\_casper\\_creek\\_02\\_24\\_16.pdf](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/effectiveness_monitoring_committee/feb_2_016_emc/emc_4.0_presentation_by_salli_dymond_casper_creek_02_24_16.pdf)
- The other Third Experiment sub-studies are: watershed resilience and recovery study, plant-soil-water dynamics study, water worlds study, bioassessment study, DHSVM modeling study, sediment fingerprinting study, fine sediment study, road rehabilitation study, and a landslide mapping study. It was explained that the nutrient cycling study could complement several of these sub-studies.
- Drs. Helen Dahlke and Randy Dahlgren, UC Davis, are the PIs for this study. A small grant for first year research has been received from the Save The Redwoods League. Randy Dahlgren successfully completed the nutrient study for the North Fork Caspar Creek study (see: [https://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw\\_gtr168/06dahlgren.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr168/06dahlgren.pdf))
- Pre-project water samples are currently being collected in the South Fork watershed. Funding is required from the EMC to complement other funding sources.
- Linkage to EMC theme 1, WLPZ riparian function, and EMC critical questions is relatively weak. Further explanation of study linkages to (d) and (e) regarding primary productivity and macroinvertebrate assemblages is required in the revised study proposal to be circulated prior

to the next EMC meeting for further review. Also, the background statement in the proposal is to be expanded to discuss the suite of studies that are part of the Third Experiment, and how this study will complement the work being undertaken in those projects.

## **5. Public Forum**

None

## **6. Announcements**

- Bill Condon stated that DFW intends to pursue a monitoring proposal evaluating the effectiveness of the Forest Practice Rules in conserving the northern spotted owl. This project, which could involve DFW, USFWS, and a contractor, eventually will culminate in an EMC proposal.
- The Western Section of the Wildlife Society Meeting will take place in Reno, February 6-10; see: <http://twswest.org/reno2017/>
- The American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest Post-Fire Runoff and Erosion Study poster is available from Drew Coe.

## **7. Next Meeting**

- Matt Dias will send out a Doodle poll for the next meeting to be held toward the end of February in Ukiah.